FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes raided selected targets in Tehran, Kermanshah, and Hamadan late on 25 March, an Iraqi military spokesman announced on Voice of the Masses radio. The spokesman added that this is new proof that the "whispers of Zionism" and aid from its Arab allies will not help Iran. Seven people were killed and 30 others were wounded in the Iraqi raid on Tehran residential areas late on 25 march, IRNA reported. Meanwhile, Iraqi planes raided two "large maritime targets" near Khark Island late on 25 March, according to an Iraqi spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio. Earlier, IRNA reported that three Iraqi planes were shot down during an attempted attack on Khark Island oil terminal midday on 25 March. An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement to INA, denied the Iranian claim and asserted that all planes returned safely to base after carrying out their missions.

On the diplomatic front, the Arab League Council issued a resolution during its 25 March Tunis meeting renewing its "total solidarity" with Iraq and stressing the need to "mobilize all efforts" to end the Gulf war, SPA reported.

Palestinian Affairs

The formation of a Palestinian National Salvation Front opposed to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's "deviationist command" was announced at a press conference in the Syrian capital reported by Damascus radio. The front is a "temporary framework" to enable the PLO to regain its "national line," a spokesman said, and will struggle to topple the agreement between 'Arafat and King Husayn, considering all those who accept the Amman agreement as "deviators." Those attending the press conference included "PNC Speaker" Khalid al-Fahum and the leaders of the PFLP, the PFLP-General Command, the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, Al-Sa'iqah, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the "Provisional Command" of Fatah — the term for Colonel Sa'id Musa's Fatah dissident group.

The DFLP and the Palestinian Communist Party were not included in the new front and sources cited by *THE JORDAN TIMES* said they have not joined because they fear it will attempt to replace the PLO. For the PLO's part, PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil al-Wazir told the paper that the new organization's formation is part of Syria's plan to divide, contain, and control the PLO, and a Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary likewise castigated the front and its Syrian and Libyan backers. Meanwhile, Libya's Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud met with the leaders of the front in Damascus and invited them to visit Libya, Tripoli radio noted. In another development, Libya has refused to allow a PLO delegation to attend the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference in Benghazi, causing Algeria and the PDRY to boycott the conference, according to a Palestinian source cited by KUNA.

Lebanon

Kidnappings — A British journalist employed by UNRWA was kidnapped south of Beirut, while a French consular official was abducted in the northern city of Tripoli, an action claimed by the "Lebanese Revolutionary Armed Factions," according to AFP.

Christians — The Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, in a statement reported by Voice of Lebanon radio, ordered all its fighters to respect the law and the legitimate authorities, adding that it intends to gradually hand over responsibility for internal security and judicial activity to the state authorities.

Kuwait

On his arrival in Kuwait, SFRY Defense Secretary Admiral Branko Mamula told KUNA that his talks with Kuwaiti Defense Ministry officials will center around military cooperation and the Middle East situation.

Pakistan

President Ziaul Haq dissolved the cabinet effective 24 March, Karachi radio reported. Following consultations with the new prime minister, Muhammad Khan Junejo, Zia requested that three ministers, including the foreign minister, remain in their posts until a new cabinet is formed, the radio noted. In a separate development, Junejo told newsmen that he favors a revival of political parties, according to the Karachi paper *DAWN*. When asked about imprisoned opposition party leaders Junejo said that the issue comes under "provincial jurisdiction."

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Pakistani Air Attack Allegations Rejected

LD251507 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 1130 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul, 25 MAR (BAKHTAR) — A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said today that the Pakistani authorities have recently broadened the dimensions of provocative and poisonous propaganda and fabrications against the DRA and once again have made groundless and wild claims that the DRA aircraft on 16, 18, and 19 March have carried out flights over the air space of that country in the Arandu region and have dropped bombs.

In connection with these false and motivated allegations, the charge d'affiares of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1130 hours today and the official responsible for the first political section told him the following:

The relevant authorities of the DRA consider these allegations of the authorities of Pakistan completely groundless and resolutely reject them. And in addition state that it would be better that the Pakistani authorities put an end to such allegations, fabrications and fictions, the aim of which is to conceal the persistent and blatant aggression of that country against the territory of Afghanistan and the intensification of tension on the borders of the two countries.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Reagan Statement

LD252233 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs announces the following:

Three days ago our noble, revolutionary, and struggling people celebrated an auspicious new year's day in light of broad democratic rights and freedoms and under better working and living conditions under the blessing of the national democratic April Revolution, and in particular its new stage of development. This celebration took place across the country, it not only followed the ancient customs and traditions of our people, but reflected their unity around the PDPA, the DRA Government, and their steel-like determination to defend the gains of the April Revolution.

On the same day, U.S. President Ronald Reagan, as in the past few years, issued a statement about our country and once again expressed his hostility to the revolutionary reality in Afghanistan, and once again demagogically said: I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, officially declare 21 March 1985 Afghanistan day. Such an utterance inevitably reminds one of a Dari poem where a person loses his home and imagines himself as master of the homes of others.

Once again, Ronald Reagan, with obvious hypocrisy, spoke of human rights in Afghanistan and tried to conceal the inhuman and anticivil essence of the undeclared war of U.S. imperialism and its collaborators against Revolutionary Afghanistan. However, he forgets that the noble people of the world are no longer prepared to hear such sacred words on human rights from the mouth of a person whose administration has raised state terrorism to the level of the country's official policy, and is responsible for shedding the pure blood of hundreds of patriots in Grenada, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Lebanon, and other parts of the world including hundreds of martyrs in our free homeland.

Our noble people seek to maintain the necessary conditions for further utilizing their rights and freedoms enshrined in the progressive laws of their revolutionary country, in further deepening the process of revolution, and in completely crushing the criminal murderous bands who are financed, trained, equipped, and infiltrated into our country by international imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism and the reaction of the region, in particular the militarist government of Pakistan and the ruling reaction in Iran, to murder and plunder innocent people.

On the other hand, in his statement the U.S. President praised these savage and cultureless bandits and is encouraging them to continue murdering and plundering in Revolutionary Afghanistan. In addition he praises the past, before the liberating April Revolution, when monarchic despotism and decadent feudalist relations were sovereign in Afghanistan. The broad masses of the people were deprived of all human rights and were living in poverty, disease, ignorance, and illiteracy. Imperialism always means that a handful of despots and corrupt men rule the people and brutally exploit the millions of masses. However, the conscience of informed humanity distinguishes between progress and social justice and life in the backward conditions of the middle ages.

Ronald Reagan, as is obvious from his statement, openly wants Afghanistan to return to the dark past so that once again the lost privileges and plundering influence of imperialism in Afghanistan is maintained. But he should know that history does not go backwards. The liberated people of Afghanistan are no longer prepared to be captive and no power in the world has the authority to turn them back from the social and economic order they have chosen for their prosperity and the prosperity of future generations.

The U.S. President has also endeavored to distort facts about the essence of the internationalist assistance of the traditional and loyal friend of the people of Afgqhanistan, the Soviet Union. The world, however, is aware of the noble role of the limited Soviet military contingents in assisting our heroic Army and struggling people and to protect peace and security in the region. They know very well that these units have temporarily come to our country at the request of the lawful government of the DRA according to the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Goodneighborliness between the two countries and Article 51 of the UN Charter. They also know that it is in fact aggressive U.S. imperialism and its collaborators which, by continuing an undeclared war, armed intervention, and other forms of interferences in the internal affairs of the DRA, prevent peaceful solutions to the situations around Afghanistan and the creation of conditions suitable for the limited Soviet military contingents to return to their peace-loving country.

Shedding crocodile tears at the conditions of the so-called Afghan refugees is another example of the Washington administration's deceptions because everyone knows that the Afghan

fugitives who, away from their homes, are living under apalling conditions with disease and poverty and are in fact the victims of the conspiracies, deception, and pressure of U.S. imperialism and its partners. And it is the U.S. Government which, through pressure on Pakistan, prevents them from returning to their homeland.

However, the U.S. President's main aim in this statement, remark, and allegation is well reflected in its text. The ruler of the White House wants on the one hand to justify continuing the undeclared war against the DRA by spending hundreds of millions of dollars every year on the opinions of the people of America, and on the other hand to encourage the Afghan counterrevolution to continue murdering and plundering in Revolutionary Afghanistan. However, time has proved that the enemies of the April Revolution in no way have the strength to rescue the mercenary counterrevolutionaries from their destiny which is complete elimination.

The march of hundreds of thousands of workers in Kabul and in the country's provinces and their expression of hate and indignation against the interferences of Reagan in the internal affairs of our country, is indicative that the people of Afghanistan are resolutely ready to respond with a united fist against every kind of intervention and aggression in their revolutionary country.

The DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the people of Afghanistan, severly condemn these hostile, slanderous, and demagogic statements from U.S. President Ronald Reagan as an open and illigitimate interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and proudly announces that, despite the intrigues and conspiracies of imperialism, hegemonism, and reaction in the presence of the brutal undeclared war, the process of the national democratic revolution in free, independent and nonaligned Afghanistan has proved it is irreversible and that the victory of the Afghan people in constructing a new society in their ancient land is historically inevitable.

BAKHTAR Details Soviet Educational Assistance

LD250720 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul, March 24, BAKHTAR — Presently, twenty one systems of vocational and technical education helped by the Soviet Union exist in Afghanistan. The Soviet Union has helped Afghanistan in introducing about 21 systems of vocational and technical education being applied in eight schools of the DRA.

This was stated by a representative of the craft and vocational department of the USSR to a BIA correspondent.

He added that over two thousand students receive up to three years of education in 28 different fields of study. They are being taught by the Soviet and Afghan teachers.

The Soviet Union has supplied the DRA with six hundred types of technical equipment at a value of over three million roubles.

In addition, over 1700 Afghan boys and girls have been sent to the Soviet Union for furthering their education in the Soviet Union.

The representative of the craft and vocational department of the Soviet Union is here for inaugurating an exhibition of the technical and vocational education in the Soviet Union. Two hundred painting works, sculptures, technical machinery, posters depicting the activities of the vocational students and other will be put on display at the exhibition.

Weapons, Ammunition Captured in Nangarhar

LD251827 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] In the course of a successful operation mounted in the villages of Achin District, Nangarhar Province, a number of armed rebels, who had been infiltrated for the murder and plunder of our noble compatriots, were crushed and 1 recoilless rifle along with 10 rounds of ammunition; 2 mortars along with 87 rounds of ammunition; 10 DShK's along with 1.41 million rounds of ammunition; 3 rocket launchers along with 66 rounds; 3 ZK-1's; 20 surface-to-air missiles; 30 assorted weapons, 1 heavy machingun and 3 light weapons were seized by the security forces. Some 4 DShK's; 1 recoilless rifle; 3 equipment and munition dumps and 2 of their hiding places were destroyed.

Minister's Statement on Missing Soviet Diplomat

BK251507 Delhi ISI Dipomatic Information Service in English 1430 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Minister of State for External Affairs Khurshid Alam Khan made the following statement in both houses of Parliament on March 25 regarding the missing official of the Soviet Embassy, Igor Gezha:

"I would like to inform the honorable members about the latest development relating to the disappearance last week of Igor Gezha, an attache in the Information Wing of the Embassy of the USSR in New Delhi.

"An official of the USSR Embassy had reported to the Delhi police authorities on the evening of Sunday, March 17, that Gezha had left his residence early that morning for the Lodhi Gardens for his customary walk and had not returned. The official expressed anxiety over this and conveyed the USSR Embassy's request for the assistance of the Government of India in locating Gezha's whereabouts. The matter was also formally brought to the notice of the Ministry of External Affairs the next morning by the USSR Embassy.

"An intensive search was launched by the police authorities to ascertain the whereabouts of the missing Soviet diplomat. All possible measures in this regard had been taken by them over the last week but had not yielded any results.

"Meanwhile, the USSR Embassy had been conveying its anxiety that something untoward may have happened to Gezha. They also indicated on the night of March 23 the possibility that he might be in the premises of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.

"In view of the gravity of the apprehensions expressed by the Soviet Embassy and the government's own serious concern to establish the facts of the case, we then asked for an urgent clarification in this regard from the U.S. Embassy.

"In response to our query, the U.S. Embassy conveyed to the Ministry of External Affairs yesterday, March 24 that 'an employee of the Soviet Embassy Information Department in New Delhi had sought and been granted political asylum by the U.S. Government at a point outside India' and further that 'he is safe and well in the U.S.A.' This information was thereafter conveyed by us the same day to the USSR Embassy.

"We have made known our serious concern to the U.S. Government about this incident and asked them to let us have full details surrounding it. The Government of India is also examining all aspects of the case as to how an official of the Soviet Embassy had left India clandestinely in the circumstances mentioned about."

SWAPO Leader, Gandhi Discuss Namibian Issue

BK251448 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] India has reaffirmed its commitment to the Southwest African People's Organization [SWAPO] in its struggle for the freedom of Namibia. The head of the organization, Mr Sam Nujoma, now in New Delhi, had talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, this evening. Mr Nujoma, who has come for consultations in connection with the next month's nonaligned coordination bureau meeting on Namibia, expressed his confidence that the meeting would have a positive effect on the Namibian stalemate. He expressed SWAPO's gratitude for India's support in various fields, both bilaterally and through multilateral programs.

Defense Minister on Border Dispute With Pakistan

BK260751 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, informed the Lok Sabha today that Pakistani troops made some attempts to dislodge our troops from positions in the Sia Chen glacier area of the Ladakh region, but all such attempts have been thwarted. Answering a question, the defense minister said three flag meetings have been held at sector commander level to cease fire prior to delineation of the area which clearly falls within our territory. These meetings have remained inconclusive.

SRV Defense Minister To Arrive 26 March

BK251314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The Vietnamese defense minister, General Van Tien Dung, is arriving in New Delhi tomorrow on a week's visit. This is his first visit to a country outside the socialist bloc.

Leaves Hanoi for New Delhi

BK261004 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] The Vietnamese defense minister, General Van Tien Dung, left Hanoi this morning for India on a week's visit. He said the situation of confrontation prevailing in Southeast Asia will soon be reversed. Such a change will enable Vietnam and other developing countries in the region to resume the urgent economic and developments issues. In an interview with All India Radio's Southeast Asia correspondent, S. Narendra, in Hanoi, General Dung who is also the senior Politburo member, said wars have been thrust on Vietnam for 40 years by outside powers. While Vietnam is not averse to seeking just peace, she is resolved to withstand pressures at any cost. General Dung answered questions on regional security problems, including Vietnam's dispute with China and with ASEAN members over Kampuchea.

He described his trip as the realization of a long cherished desire.

Opposition Protests Gandhi Remarks on Ahmedabad

BK260946 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] In the Lok Sabha, most of the opposition members walked out when the deputy speaker did not admit an adjournment

motion on the reported remarks of the prime minister against the opposition at Ahmedabad on Saturday [23 March]. The opposition alleged that the prime minister had, in his remarks, held the opposition responsible for the trouble in Ahmedabad, which they said was not true.

In the Rajya Sabha, the Janata leader, Mr M.S. Gurupadaswamy, said the prime minister should name the opposition parties alleged to be involved. He demanded judicial inquiry into the disturbances.

Strike Observed in Chandigarh To Protest Murder

BK251622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] In Chandigarh, most of the shops and business establishment remained closed today in response to a bundh [strike] call by some political and other organizations to protest against the murder of the local BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr Krishan Lal Manchanda. Private, public, and government offices and essential services, however, functioned normally.

The body of Mr Manchanda was cremated in Chandigarh this afternoon. Amongst others, the BJP president, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, and former Punjab ministers Mr Balramji Narchandan and Mr Hit Abhilashi attended the funeral.

The Punjab governor, Mr Arjun Singh, has expressed shock over the murder of the Chandigarh BJP secretary, Mr Krishan Lal Manchanda, last night. In a condolence message, he said this murder has inflicted a cruel blow to the forces which were actively trying to maintain peace and amity in the country.

Condemning the killing of Mr Manchanda, the Punjab Pradesh BJP president, Mr Baldev Prakash, said the first and foremost problem in the state is to fight the cult of terrorism and establish a democratic way of life. The Goa BJP general secretary, Mr Bhandari, said further delay in finding a solution to the Punjab issue will only encourage terrorism.

The Chandigarh police has announced a reward of 5,000 rupees to any person giving information leading to the arrest of the culprits responsible for the murder of the BJP leader, Mr Manchanda, in Chandigarh last evening. The announcement was made by the IG [Inspector General] of police, Union Territory of Chandigarh, today.

Split Reported in Akali Dal Talwandi Group

BK260423 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] In Punjab, the Akali Dal Talwandi group split with 16 of its 32 SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee — Sikh Temple Management Committee] members resigning and defecting en bloc to the Akali Dal led by Sant Harchard Singh Longowal. According to PTI, the group led by senior leader Mr Shiv Singh Khushipura, announced the decision yesterday after a meeting with Mr Longowal and the head priest in Amritsar.

Terrorist Detention Bill Introduced in Lok Sabha

BK230928 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] A bill introduced in the Lok Sabha today seeks to provide that the extremists and terrorists who may be detained in Punjab and Chandigarh before the 3d of April 1986 can be held for 6 months without obtaining the opinion of an advisory board. At present, this power can be exercised only in the case of those extremists and terrorists who may be detained up to the 3d of April this year. The extension of the power for another year is sought to be obtained by amending the National Security Act.

Giving reasons for seeking the power for a longer period, the statement of objects attached to the bill says that the activities of the extremists and terrorists in the disturbed areas of Punjab and Chandigarh continue to be a matter of serious concern.

Prime Minister Addresses Secretariat Staff

BK251624 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo visited his Secretariat in Rawalpindi today. He was received by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who introduced him to the senior staff and took him around various divisions of the Secretariat. Addressing the members of the staff on the occasion, the president thanked the staff, which discharged its duties by making optimum use of its capabilities. He expressed the hope that the staff members will also extend all possible cooperation to the new head of government and work as a team to lead the country toward its cherished goal.

Addressing the Secretariat staff, Prime Minister Junejo referred to the great responsibility which he has accepted with complete sincerity. He expressed the hope that the Secretariat staff will join him in serving Pakistan. He said he has great expectations from the staff members, as they have been working under the president's guidance. Mohammad Khan Junejo said the president has tried his best to promote Islamic ideology, to introduce Islamic laws, and to establish an Islamic government. It is now our duty to make efforts for the establishment of an Islamic welfare state in which the people, both rich and poor, can lead their lives with honor, dignity, peace, and tranquillity, he added. Earlier, the prime minister inspected the guard of honor presented by a smartly turned out contingent of the armed services and took the salute.

The prime minister's Secretariat has been established in the building which was previously called the chief martial law administrator's secretariat, which has now been shifted to Islamabad.

Cabinet Dissolved; Interim Portfolios Announced

BK251535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] A notification issued from the cabinet division today says that Ghulam Ishaq Khan, minister for finance, economic affairs, and commerce, has resigned his post as federal minister with effect from 21 March following his election as the Senate chairman on the same date.

The president has directed that the existing federal cabinet be dissolved effective 24 March following the assumption of the office of the prime minister by Mohammad Khan Junejo on 23 March. The president, in consultation with the prime minister, has requested Dr Mohammad Afazl, Dr Mahbubul Haq, and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan to continue in their posts until the formation of the new cabinet. The portfolios to be held by the prime minister until further notice are: food, agriculture, and cooperatives; labor, manpower and overseas Pakistanis affairs, housing and construction, Kashmir and northern area affairs; local government and rural development; culture and tourism; production; national logistics board; railroads; communications; interior; defense; trade; water and power; justice and parliamentary affairs; information and broadcasting; and petroleum and natural resources.

Dr Mohammad Afzal will hold the portfolios of education and religious and minority affairs. Dr Mahbubul Haq will be in charge of planning and development, health, special education, social welfare, industries, finance, and economic affairs.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will continue to hold the Foreign Ministry portfolio as usual.

USSR Sends Greetings Message to President Zia

BK250529 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] The chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet has sent a message of greetings on Pakistan day to President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and has expressed good wishes for the people of Pakistan.

Soviet Diplomat in Karachi Comments on Relations

GF241322 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Mar 85 p 20

[Text] Karachi, March 21: Mr V.M. Zelenov, the consul-general of USSR in Karachi, said on Thursday that his country is trying to develop good neighbourly relations with Pakistan. He was speaking as chief guest in place of Mr Vitaliy S. Smirnov, the Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, at the Pakistan day celebrations at the friendship house.

The diplomat spoke at length on bilateral relations between the two countries since independence and specially mentioned the assistance that Soviets had provided to Pakistan in the field of exploration of oil and gas, setting up of a steel mill in Karachi, Guddu Thermal power station, and tractor manufacturing units etc.

Mr Zelenov said there is great potential for the development of relations and cooperation in various fields.

The head of the cultural department of the USSR mission, Mr Mirza, introduced the subject and congratulated the people and the government of Pakistan on "the most important event in your life". Friendship house, he said, has been celebrating the Pakistan day for the last 30 years and the Soviet Embassy is the only diplomatic mission which is celebrating the day.

MASHRIQ Editorial Comments on Soviet Leadership

GF221610 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 15 Mar 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Expectations from the New Soviet Leadership"]

[Text] In his message of felicitations to Gorbachev, the new Soviet leader, President General Ziaul Haq, while offering his good wishes, hoped that his dynamic leadership will provide the Soviet people with greater prosperity and that maintenance of peace in the world, for which greater responsibility lies on the shoulders of the Soviet Union, will find new support. He also expressed his wish that relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union will continue to grow in the interest of both countries. As far as Pakistan was concerned, he said, it is ready to take more

positive steps in this respect. We think that this is a positive offer from Pakistan to the Soviet Union and if the new Soviet leadership also gives a positive response, then Pakistani-Soviet relations will gain more depth, meaning, and amplitude.

The new Soviet leadership should realize the fact that Pakistan is totally a nonaligned country in global and regional politics. It is totally away from working in the interest of either the United States or the Soviet Union. It therefore behoves the Soviet Union to set up its framework of relations with Pakistan on the status of its nonalignment. As far as the question of Afghanistan is concerned, Pakistan's stance on this subject is based on principle, it is based neither on any hostility toward the Soviet Union nor any leaning toward the United States. Pakistan sincerely wants a peaceful politica! solution of the Afghanistan question. The new Soviet leadership also must have realized that it will not gain any positive result from the military drive in Afghanistan, and moreover it would be in the interest of the Soviet Union also if a peaceful solution of the Afghanistan problem is found.

A number of critics have said that the new Soviet leadership will play a positive role in trying to find a peaceful solution to the Afghanisan question. The U.S. under secretary of state, while addressing the Afghan refugees in Peshawar, expressed the same hope that the new Soviet leadership will review its policy on Afghanistan and will try to find a peaceful solution to this problem. President General Ziaul Haq has several times expressed the hope that a positive attitude from the Soviet Union can resolve the Afghanistan issue, and he has made an offer to the new Soviet leadership that he is ready to take further positive steps to strengthen Soviet -Pakistan relations.

It is only natural that Pakistan should desire a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan issue because the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan has created a new political and geographical change in the region which can affect the future of the entire region including Pakistan. It is on this account that Pakistan from the very beginning has been trying to find a solution to the question which should be acceptable to the Soviet Union to enable it to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, and acceptable also to Afghanistan so that this small neighboring country can have its sovereignty and nonaligned status restored. Unfortunately, the coolness and tension between the United States and the Soviet Union for the last few years has been an obstacle to solving the Afghanistan issue.

However, now when talks have been renewed between the two superpowers on disarmament and on all global and regional problems, and the new Soviet leadership has expressed its determination to review the atmosphere of peaceful coexistence with the capitalist countries, then the changed atmosphere between the two superpowers could also prove helpful in solving the Afghanistan problem. We hope that the new Soviet leadership will be convinced of the sincerety of Pakistan on this question, and if as a result of this some means is found to resolve this tangle then there is every hope of expanding the field of cooperation between Pakistan and the Soviet Union.

Sri Lanka's Jayewardene, Hameed To Visit 29 Mar

BK211624 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Sri Lankan President Junius Richard Jayewardene will be accorded a warm welcome when he arrives in Islamabad on the 29th of this month on a week's state visit to Pakistan at the invitation of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The Sri Lankan president will be accompanied by his wife. A high-level delegation, including Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed, will also visit Pakistan along with Jayewardene.

Joint Textile Mills With Iran To Be Closed

GF251330 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Mar 85 Economic and Business Review Supplement p 1

[Excerpts] Policymakers in Islamabad and Tehran appear to have reached an embarassing decision regarding their only existing industrial joint venture — the two textile mills of Baluchistan. They look certain to "dump it." "Iranians were keen to see the mills running, but only if Pakistan footed the bill. Now they are not keen for anything and the ball has been thrown into Islamabad's court," a leading banker disclosed. "On our part, we had decided to close the mills as far back as 1983," a senior official confirmed. "Discussion has been going only to decide who shares the losses and in what ratio."

The latest change in Iranian thinking became known to a high level delegation which has recently returned from Tehran after a week's detailed deliberations. "They were very polite and courteous, but they told us firmly our proposals were not acceptable to them," an authentic source told me. "Why at all did the government send a delegation to Iran at this time when it is known that the Gulf war has escalated beyond any comprehension," a textile expert asked. Officials explain that the visit was to follow up the "positive and optimistic," hints thrown by the Iranian Finance Minister in his December sojourn in Pakistan. "The Iranians then had indicated that they would contribute up to about 30 per cent of the capital to make the two mills at Uthal and Bela running again," one banker said.

The Federal Finance Ministry duly picked up the hint and set up a strong five-member delegation led by the NDFC [National Development Finance Corporation] chairman to talk to the Iranians. Others included a director of PIDC [Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation], two joint secretaries of production and foreign ministries and a senior management executive of the PITM [Pakistan-Iran Textile Mill]. The delegation returned to Karachi quietly late last month and none of the members was in a mood to discuss the outcome publicly. However, by all indications available from informed sources, everybody in the delegation was thoroughly disappointed by the Iranian attitude. "I would say that Iranians are no longer interested in the project and now Pakistan will have to find out how and who will run it," a knowledgeable source said. "They seem to have learnt it through experience that public sector is not capable of running such projects. And they are adopting this policy both domestically as well as for joint ventures," an executive dealing with the Iranians observed.

BANGLADESH

President Ershad Gives Independence Day Address

BK251609 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1333 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Address to the nation by Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad — live]

[Excerpts] Dear countrymen, peace be upon you. Tomorrow is the 14th anniversary of our independence. I extend my sincere greetings and good wishes to all of you on the happy occasion of independence and national day. Let our future path be more beautiful and the coming years bring happiness, peace and prosperity to all. This is what I wish.

I convey my sincere gratitude and thanks to you for the support extended by you through the referendum on 21 March on the continuation of my responsibilities as the president as well as for expressing your confidence in my government's policies and programs. It is through you that the desire of God, the merciful, has been conveyed that I should carry on my responsibilities as the president until general elections are held under the suspended Constitution. I pray to Almighty God to enable me to carry out this heavy responsibility in a proper manner. I am overwhelmed by your love and support. In this context, I also extend my sincere thanks to those who contributed to the successful holding of the referendum in a peaceful manner. I assure you that we will not only work untiringly with all our strength for the continued progress of the country and improvement of your lot, but we will also accelerate our effort, showing respect for your confidence and support. We are committed to ensuring a dignified and honorable position in the world for our beloved motherland.

Dear countrymen, in international relations, also, the friendship and amity of Bangladesh have been strengthened and expanded in the past 3 years. Our friendly relations have been further deepened and areas of cooperation largely expanded, especially with the fraternal Muslim states.

Besides taking part in different ICO forums, we very successfully held an Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Dhaka in December 1983. After that, the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Islamic Development Bank was held in Dhaka last month. The finance ministers of Muslim countries took part in this important meeting. Bangladesh has earned a special distinction in the outer world by successfully holding these two important meetings in Dhaka.

In making the South Asian Regional Cooperation forum a reality, we have created a field of cooperation for the welfare of the people in this region. We are expecting the summit of this forum to be held in Dhaka by the end of this year. Outside this forum, we are always working to settle different problems and expand the area of cooperation with the neighboring countries on a bilateral basis and through negotiations. We are also playing our just role as a member of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Commonwealth. At the same time, we are continuing our efforts to build bilateral friendly relations and cooperation with all the nations of the world.

Dear countrymen, martial law is only a temporary measure for the administration of the country. I have repeatedly told you about our sincere efforts to restore democratic government in the country by lifting martial law. I again repeat that, as soon as possible, we want to make the path accessible for the transition to democracy by peacefully holding national elections. Arrangements for holding the elections will be made when the political parties are ready for the elections.

Meanwhile, we have completed the elections of local and autonomous bodies. We believe that the sooner the postponed elections for the chairmen of the subdivisions are held, the better it will be for the rural areas and the nation.

Dear countrymen, we have marched forward through many events, many favorable and unfavorable situations, in the past 3 years. We have also received much help and cooperation. Life is made of happiness and frustrations. There is no exception to it, it also applies to a nation. But the hope is that we have been able to march forward substantially in the past 3 years by discarding the sluggishness of the past. Our forward march was possible only because of your overwhelming support, help, and cooperation. I extend sincere thanks to you on behalf of my government for your enthusiastic participation in the development work and the inspiration you have provided in the efforts toward maintaining peace, discipline, progress, and the transition to democracy.

We firmly believe that our forward march will continue without any restraint and, God willing, we will be able to achieve the goal of building a happy and prosperous new Bangladesh. The great and merciful Almighty will surely come to our help. Good-bye. Long live Bangladesh.

Ershad Chairs Martial Law Administrator Meeting

BK231840 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] A conference of the zonal martial law administrators and senior military officers was held in Dhaka today with the president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, in the chair. The conference reviewed the overall situation in the country.

The DCMLA's [deputy chief martial law administrator] — Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad and Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud — principal staff officers and the chief of general staff attended the conference, among others.

Anwar Hussain Named Energy, Mineral Minister

BK251223 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The president has assigned the portfolio of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources to Mr Anwar Hussain. Mr Anwar Hussain was appointed minister yesterday.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Offers Amnesty to 'Terrorists'

BK261152 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Excerpt] President Jayewardene expressed the government's willingness to grant an amnesty to all terrorists who are willing to lay down their arms and are ready for negotiation to find a solution to their problem. Speaking at a ceremony held in connection with the opening of the Inginimitiya reservoir yesterday, the president made it clear that he did not have any hatred toward the terrorists as it was compassion, and not hatred, which help defeat hatred. But he condemned the terrorists who killed innocent Sinhalese, Tamils, and Muslims without any justifiable reason. President Jayewardene also made it clear that Sri Lanka was a territory which gave shelter to citizens of all (?races) and appealed to the terrorists to lay down their arms and participate in discussions to solve their problem.

Mr Jayewardene recalled his historic San Francisco speech after the Second World War, in which he made a proposal to [words indistinct]. The president was referring to the current visit of the Indian foreign secretary, Romesh Bhandari, to Sri Lanka to discuss bilateral issues between the two countries.

Mr Jayewardene pointed out that Sri Lanka was now self-sufficient in rice and vegetables and expressed the hope that self-sufficiency could be achieved in sugar in the near future.

Hameed Terms Meeting With Bhandari 'Useful'

BK261150 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] The visiting Indian foreign secretary, Romesh Bhandari, called on Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed at the Foreign Ministry office in Colombo yesterday. Mr Hameed told our correspondent that the meeting was useful and the issues have been placed in perspective and constructively examined. The meeting lasted for over an hour.

The minister was associated with his secretary, W.T. Jayasinghe; Sri Lanka's high commissioner in New Delhi, Bernard Tilakaratna; and J. Rajapakse, director, South Asia Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Indian side was represented by Joint Secretary S.T. Devare and the Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, S.J.S. Chatwal.

Mr Bhandari also paid a courtesy call on President Jayewardene yesterday afternoon, where he was briefed on the present situation in the country. The meeting took place at Inginimitiya.

Bhandari To Meet With Premadasa, Athulathmudali

BK260416 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, now in Colombo, will have another round of talks today with senior Sri Lankan leaders. He will also separately call on the prime minister, Mr Premadasa, the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, and the minister for home.

Mr Bhandari yesterday held talks with President Jayewardene in Inginimitiya, about 120 km north of Colombo. Our special correspondent, Praban Majumdar, reports that the talks were held in a friendly atmosphere.

Both sides showed great consideration to the various issues involved, particularly the Tamil question. The talks lasted 90 minutes and no aides were present. Mr Bhandari will have another round of talks with President Jayewardene before he leaves for home tomorrow.

Chemical Warfare Victim Dies in Vienna

AU251437 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 24 Mar 85 p 8

[Special *DIE PRESSE* report by "ST"]

[Excerpts] Vienna — One of the eight Iranian poison gas victims brought to Vienna for treatment died on Sunday [24 March], and the condition of another four wounded Iranians yesterday afternoon was regarded as highly critical, with hardly a chance of survival, by the attending physicians at Vienna's Second Surgical University Clinic. One of these physicians, Dr Gernot Pauser, declared yesterday that the injuries were relatively old considering that treatment in such cases is frequently a question of hours. When nearly exactly 1 year ago another group of Iranians injured by mustard gas were treated in Vienna, they arrived here only 6 days after the raid, while this time 10 days had elapsed, he said.

As happened a year ago, the poison gas victims are treated in accordance with a therapy worked out by Belgian toxicologist Professor Heyndrickx, who last year also analyzed the poison gas. This time, however, the Iranian soldiers' injuries were caused not only by mustard gas, but also by other toxic agents. "We don't know yet exactly what else was involved," Pauser told *DIE PRESSE* yesterday. "It is some agent containing cyanides." He added that, contrary to last year, not only the lung, skin, and bone marrow are damaged but in addition the liver is poisoned and the gaseous interchange in the blood is blocked.

Reportage on Tehran Air Raid, War Situation

Bostan Bombed, 2 Dead in Esfahan

LD251813 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — A number of Iraqi aircraft bombed the southern city of Bostan at 3:00 pm (11:30 GMT) Monday [25 March], martyring one person and injuring two others.

Meanwhile, the casualty toll in today's air raid against a suburban area of Esfahan rose to two martyrs and 30 injured. Most of the injured were released from hospital after treatment for slight injuries.

A lone Iraqi warplane attacked the area at 1:40 pm (10:10 GMT) and relief workers with the help of the people, are continuing the search for more possible victims.

POW's Arrive in Tehran

LD251718 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — The second group of Iraqi prisoners of war comprising over 1,000 officers, NCO's and soldiers were transferred to Tehran by 33 buses Monday evening and settled in a POW camp here.

The Iraqi soldiers were taken captive during the recent Iranian offensive, the Badr operation in the southern fronts and in the Hur al-Azim region.

The Iraqi POW's expressed pleasure for being in the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the Badr operation more than 5000 Iraqi troops were captured.

Foreign journalists in Tehran who were also present, prepared films and reports on the arrival of Iraqi POW's.

Clandestine on Air Raids

GF251830 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpts] During the past 48 hours, 24 cities of our country have been attacked by Iraq. At 0445 [0115 GMT] today, Iran was raided by Iraqi planes but due to the heavy censorship of the news by the regime of mullahs no exact report of damage or loss of life is available. According to a telephone report by one of our correspondents which was cut off within minutes, the targets of today's raid were mostly located in southern Tehran.

In his report, our correspondent stated that explosions at Jay garrison, Qal-e Morghi airfield, and radio transmitters located on Saveh-Tehran road were observed. However, due to the line being cut off, he was unable to give us details of the air raid.

Communique on Iraqi Air Attacks

LD251653 Tehran IRNA in English 1651 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — Iranian anti-aircraft fire shot down an Iraqi plane in the southern region of the country Monday, the Joint Staff reported. The aircraft was downed at 1:30 pm (10:10 GMT), the Joint Staff said but it did not elaborate further.

Military sources told IRNA three Iraqi warplanes were shot down during an attempted attack by several warplanes on Iran's main oil export terminal at Khark Island in the Persian Gulf today. The sources added the wreckage of one of the planes had been found 25 kms from Khark Island and a search was continuing for the other two.

Enemy planes also violated the airspace of 10 Iranian cities, including Tehran today, but carried out attacks on areas near Arak and Qazvin before dawn, and on Esfahan and Tabriz later in the day, the Joint Staff said.

Communique No. 2053 said the Iraqi planes violated the airspace and shattered the sound barrier over Tehran, Qom, Hamadan, Sanandaj, Baneh and Abhar.

In the Badr operational region and other southern fronts, the Islamic combatants held their superior fire over the enemy forces during Sunday and defended their defensive positions.

In central and northern fronts, enemy supply lines, military columns, logistical points and positions came under artillery and mortar fire, killing a group of troops and inflicting effective losses, the communique said.

Commentary on Bombing Cities

GF252017 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] For the thousandth time, the Islamic Republic witholds action, forgives, and surrenders its right of retaliation. For the thousandth time, the Islamic Republic grants an opportunity to the Iraqi rulers to regain their senses and put an end to destroying civilian installations. For the thousandth time, these rulers think they can carry on with their apparent conduct, although they know that what they hide contradicts with what they show. For the thousandth time, the Islamic Republic grants the opportunity for them to regain their memory and learn the lessons from the past rounds of the war of cities.

It was a golden opportunity for the Iraqi rulers to grasp when the Islamic Republic announced [words indistinct] to safeguard the protection of Iraqi cities, especially Baghdad, which has been the target of four missiles. The Islamic Republic did not take this stand from incapability or weakness. It took it at a time when it could have destroyed Baghdad or any other location in Iraq.

In his Friday sermon Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the Iraqi rulers to put an end to bombing civilian targets in order to safeguard their cities. He said plainly that we are willing to close our missile stores so that we may benefit from them against the Zionist enemy. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Our plan was to keep these missiles and use them in our decisive war against Israel. However, if the Iraqi rulers force us to change our stand, we are prepared to launch these missiles at any location in Iraq.

It seems these stands and ironies have not changed anything with regard to the Iraqi rulers' stand of continued aggression. They probably believe that this stand of the Islamic Republic indicates weakness. They also might believe that our stores do not contain missiles other than those already taken from them. This delusion led them to ignore the Islamic Republic's decision on ending the bombing of civilian targets. As a result, they exercised aggression against two civilian maritime targets and other civilian targets on land.

They forced the Islamic Republic to change its stand and retaliate in order to destroy the illusion that is preventing them from seeing the truth. The Islamic Republic had to remove obstructions from those rulers' line of vision to reveal the (?consequent) facts. The remedy for the Ba'thist disease of delusions was another batch of long-range missiles which shook Baghdad and the walls of the republic's palace, the Iraqi ruler's center for crime and terror.

Perhaps this batch will remedy those impostors in Baghdad from the disease of delusion, haughtiness, and arrogance. Perhaps it will be an incentive for them to go back to logical thinking and end the bombing of civilian land, maritime, or aerial targets and save Baghdad from the disaster of destruction and devastation. Those rulers have another chance to return to logical thinking and render sufficient this amount of aggression against civilian towns and targets. Let them be quite aware that it would be in the interest of the Islamic Republic, politically and militarily, to continue the bombing of civilian targets because it would provide a golden opportunity for the Islamic Republic to destroy Baghdad and accelerate the downfall of the ruling regime there.

This regime cannot cause any decisive change in the Islamic Republic if it continues to bomb civilian targets. Despite these results, the Islamic Republic has said that it will end this action if Iraq does, in order to safeguard innocent people. It is important for us that innocent people are not victims of such military operations. To safeguard the lives of such people, the Islamic Republic changed its stand and declared its willingness to end civilian bombings if Iraq reciprocated. Two days ago, it gave a clear indication of its stand hoping that the Iraqi rulers would benefit from it.

Kuwait Media on Iran's Victories

LD251844 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Pr. March 25 IRNA — Kuwaiti mass media have been instructed by the Kuwaiti minister of information, Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Sabah to give special prominence to Iraqi military communiques within the framework of propaganda cooperation of the reactionary states in the region with the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

Reports reaching here further indicate that the Kuwaiti minister has also asked the country's media to strongly refrain from covering the victories of Iran's Islamic combatants in the war against the Iraqi aggressors.

In a confidential letter to editors-in-chief of the *AL-QABAS* and *AL-ANBA'* dailies, as well as to the director general of the state run Kuwaiti news agency KUNA, Al-Sabah has urged them to portray the situation in Iraq as stable and normal.

Meanwhile, the *AL-SIYASAH* newspaper which reflects the viewpoints of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, Monday urged the reactionary Arab states to open their arms depots to Iraq for use against Iran.

In an editorial written by Ahmed al-Jarallah, he stressed that the use of these arms against Israel was no more an issue because, he said, Arabs were convinced that the Zionist regime was more powerful than them and therefore they should not fight it.

Progressive Arab circles in Beirut remember Ahmed al-Jarallah bitterly due to his few day secret visit to occupied Palestine last year.

In related news, the Kuwaiti paper *AL-ANBA'* has proposed the establishment of a special fund in support of the Iraqi regime with regard to its critical economic condition.

Iraqi Planes Attack Tehran

LD260510 Tehran IRNA in English 0507 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA — Four are martyred and 30 others injured in southern Tehran as a result of Iraqi air attack

on two residential points in southern Tehran early this morning. In this aerial attack carried out by an Iraqi warplane at 1:30 am local time (22:00 GMT), one home and a mosque have been totally destroyed. Relief workers are helping those injured.

7 Dead in Tehran Attack

LD260702 Tehran IRNA in English 0657 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA — Death toll of the early Tuesday morning Iraqi air raid on two residential areas in southern Tehran has risen to 7. An Iraqi warplane raided areas inhabited by deprived people and caused damages to several houses, shops and a semi-finished mosque in the area.

Some 30 people including women and children have been wounded, and those with slight injuries have been treated and discharged from hospital.

The Iraqi regime in a military communique released after the strike, referred to the two sections hit in southern Tehran, as predetermined military targets.

People who gathered at the site of the incident to help the victims of the latest Iraqi air raid were chanting the slogan of "War, war, till victory."

Death Toll Rises Further

LD260952 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA — An official of the Iranian Red Crescent society said that so far 9 people have been martyred in the Tuesday morning Iraqi air attack on residential areas in southern Tehran. Meanwhile, 14 others suffering from injuries have been hospitalised, he added.

According to the official, two residential areas, one in Dowlatabad Township and the other in Sizdah-e Aban District, in southern Tehran were hit.

As a result of the air raid, a gas pipe in southern Tehran was ripped open which was later repaired.

Furthermore, Iraqi jets violated the air space of Hamadan, Hamadan Province at 01:30 local time (22:00 GMT) and were repelled by anti-aircraft units. The intruding planes broke the sound barrier.

AFP on Tehran Air Raid

HK260112 Hong Kong AFP in English 0057 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 26 (AFP) — Iraqi warplanes raided Tehran today (2230 GMT Monday), dropping rockets on the northern part of the city.

It was the second raid on Tehran in less than 24 hours after Iraq and Iran Monday morning ended a two-day truce in their three-week-old campaign of attacks on civilian targets.

In Baghdad, meanwhile, Iraq reported raids on another four Iranian cities on Monday and on Iran's Khark Island oil terminal.

It was the first attack on the terminal reported by Iraq since the warring sides started bombing each other's cities. Maritime sources in Manama said the terminal, hub of Iran's oil exports, had been slightly damaged by three air raids a week ago, but Iraq has not reported the attacks. Iraq's daily military communique denied Iran's claim that three Iraqi fighter-bombers had been shot down during Monday's raid on the oil terminal.

The morning raid on Tehran, the communique said, was triggered by an explosion in downtown Baghdad, which Iraqis earlier had attributed to "weapons delivered to Iranian leaders by Arab slaves of Zionism."

It was the first acknowledgement by Iraq of Iranian hits in Baghdad, with previous explosions there being blamed on car-bombs by terrorists. No casualty toll has been given for the blast, which Iran said was caused by a ground-to-ground missile.

The communique said a mission was also flown against Kashan, in north central Iran, after the missile attack on Baghdad.

Later Monday, the communique said, raids were made on Tabriz, northern Iran, and on Hamadan and Esfahan, in west-central Iran.

Iraq also reported 65 attacks against Iranian troops east of the Tigris River, while helicopters damaged 10 Iranian vessels and four positions in 24 missions.

The communique said that 20 Iranian troops were killed in clashes between the two armies on the northern and central fronts. It added that Iran shelled two Iraqi border cities, Mandali and Khurmal, on the central front.

Meanwhile, in Tunis, the Arab League Ministerial Council Monday adopted a resolution renewing its "total solidarity" with Iraq and calling for efforts to end the four-and-half-year old war by negotiations and a "peaceful, just and honorable solution", according to a source close to the council.

Addressing the opening session of the Council Monday, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi urged the U.N. Security Council to take "immediate action" to bring peace to Iran and Iraq. The Arab League Council is expected to make its resolutions public today.

Iraqi Planes Violate Airspace

LD261050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1036 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] The aggressive planes of the Iraqi regime violated the airspace of the towns of Sanandaj Sajj, Hamadan, Bakhtaran and Qazvin at the early hours of this morning. They were confronted with intensive antiaircraft defense fire and fled. These planes broke through the sound barrier over the mentioned towns.

Visit by Iraq's Aziz to U.S., USSR Reported

LD260915 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 26 IRNA — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, in a meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Monday stressed that Iraq would not agree to halting attacks on Iranian cities.

The Iraqi foreign minister left for Washington right after his unannounced visit to Moscow. His visit to Moscow took place one day after the fourth Iranian missile hit the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. The Soviet news agency, TASS, reported the visit one day after Aziz had left Moscow.

Aziz apparently left Moscow without being able to get more arms from the Soviet Union. Therefore, he went to Washington to raise the need for a comprehensive peace in the 4 1/2 year-old-war, in his talks with Shultz.

Following the meeting, the State Department spokesman said that Shultz had expressed his interest in peace negotiations within the framework of the United Nations.

UK SUNDAY TIMES Cited on Missile Production

GF260655 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] The British newspaper *THE SUNDAY TIMES* said yesterday that the Islamic Republic of Iran is currently producing long-range ground-to-ground missiles. The newspaper adds that these Iranian long-range missiles will play an important role in the future in the Iraq-Iran war.

The British newspaper attempted to assess the capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran to produce long-range surface-to-surface missiles and said that Iran is able at present to produce one of these missiles every 5 days.

Khomeyni New Year Speech Unheeded by Baghdad

GF260650 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0447 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Commentary entitled: "The New Year and the Guidance of the Imam of Ummah"]

[Text] The new year started at the same time as the 55th month of the imposed war, days after the achievement of new victories in the final days of the passing year on the southern fronts of the country. Under these sensitive conditions, which are truly among the most sensitive days of the imposed war and the heroic resistance of the resisting Iranian nation, the imam delivered a message offering his congratulations on the new year and praising the epic created by those at prayers in Tehran University. He also said: "We must try to develop our taste so that anything is sweet for us. Obedience to God's will means that there may be a time when one surrenders, there may be a time to bow to God's will and there is no difference whether it is a blessing or a blight that comes from Him. The one who obeys considers all such things blessings and sees it as coming from Him."

While briefly mentioning the latest adventures of Saddam and the support of international oppression for the aggressive Iraqi regime, the imam of ummah addressed the Iranian nation saying: "Our duty is to resist injustice and to slap the one who has punched us in the mouth. As long as the world refuses to accept this, the war will continue and it is their war, not one waged by us."

The founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in his first new year audience for the officials of our country, stressed the matter of carrying out and acting according to the Lord's decrees and noted the fact that, generally, pious beings should do all their deeds for God, his work and in obedience to him. It is obvious that should such a philosophy form the basis of a Muslim's beliefs and actions, then only obedience to the Lord's decrees matter to him, no matter whether they lead to superficial victory or defeat.

According to the same philosophy the recent moves by the resisting Iranian nation to defeat the mischief of the aggressor has no meaning but obedience to the word of the Lord. In this connection, Imam Khomeyni stated: "God has decreed: Go and cut off the hand of the aggressor. We will go and do what is within our power. We will cut off the hand of the aggressor if we can. If we cannot, we still will have done our deed. He has told us: Fight them. The Lord will punish them in our hands. We fight and this is obedience. This means we are totally at His disposal and obey Him." In another part of his remarks, the imam of ummah referred to the same topic and said: "If we are fighting it is to obey God and if we make peace it is to obey Him."

Stressing such points and meanings are important because some observers and analysts are trying to evaluate the brave and crushing action of the people of Iran in a different and unrealistic manner. It is this lack of understanding and the inability to understand the mechanism of laws governing the movements of Muslims and their motives with respect to their lives in this world that make many of the oppressors incapable of estimating or evaluating the power of the Muslims.

The remarks of the imam of ummah, calling on the Iranian nation to be patient and to resist in the face of difficulties under the circumstances when many plots are being carried out to break the dam of the resistance of this nation, are also worth noting. The Iraqi regime is totally shaken after 4 and 1/2 years of warmongering and is continuing to exist and commit adventurism solely as a result of the support of international oppression and regional reaction. It has, therefore, tried to attract international public opinion toward its critical situation by intensifying the war and spreading it to civilian regions and airways. Saddam, who has not yet realized the power of our nation, believed that such a new move would enable him to pressure our nation into accepting a shameful peace. However, as the experience of the past few weeks has shown, he has not only failed to achieve anything, but has in fact received crushing replies on all fronts. The Badr operations, while destroying an extensive quantity of enemy supplies, cost the regime over 12,000 dead or wounded and 3,000 prisoners. In the words of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani: "Our new military blow against Iraq has prepared the grounds for our great move."

Within the framework of a retaliatory policy by the Islamic Republic in the form of a response to the barbaric attacks of the Saddamists against the civilian regions of our country, the industrial and military installations of Basra and dozens of other Iraqi cities received mortal blows resulting in the complete paralysis of some. At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stated, since the start of the new Iraqi misadventures, that it is not at all willing to attack civilian regions and opposes an intensification of the war. Thus it has only adopted a policy of retaliation and of returning a harder punch after each blow by the enemy. In continuation of this policy, during the 1-day break when Iraq did not attack civilian areas, the War Information Office announced a temporary halt to Iranian attacks against Iraq's civilian targets. However, the rulers of Baghdad resumed their attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf hours after this Iranian statement. This showed they did not take seriously the threats of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning missile attacks against the heart of Baghdad in response to attacks against civilian areas or misadventures in the Persian Gulf. The firing of the fifth Iranian surface-to-surface missile yesterday was in response to the misadventures of the regime of Baghdad in the Persian Gulf. It again showed the steadfast determination of Islamic Iran and its ability to respond to the animalistic behavior of the Saddamists.

As the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stated, and as it reiterates to the world now, it is unwilling to attack civilian areas and is prepared to stop its retaliatory actions immediately after Iraq stops its attacks on civilian areas and commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf. Should the Iraqis continue their adventures, we will in return deal more mortal blows against the Baghdad regime, as we have so far shown we will do. Our president, referring to the Iraqi threat to attack passenger airliners in Iranian airspace said: "Should such a situation occur, Iran will level Baghdad International Airport."

Now is time for the rulers of Baghdad and all the supporters of this regime to realize that the Islamic Republic of Iran will respond to all such actions of Saddam with missile attacks against Baghdad and that all the sources who are currently trying to save the Iraqi Ba'th party by imposing a disgraceful peace on the Islamic Republic should know that, as the imam stated: "We did not start the war nor did we want it from the start; we do not want it now or in the future. However, we will not accept a peace which is worse than the war."

DIE WELT Cited on Suicide Commando Targets

AU251419 Paris AFP in English 1334 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Bonn, March 25 (AFP) — Iran has planned to send suicide commandos to hit targets in "corrupt" Arab countries and Western nations that are deemed hostile to the Islamic Republic, the West German daily *DIE WELT* reported today.

The newspaper based its findings on a confidential Iranian document supplied by Iranian exiles, and reportedly validated by Western intelligence services, which gave the minutes of a top-secret meeting in Tehran in May last year. The meeting grouped a personal envoy, codenamed Mirhashem, from Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, a representative from the Armed Forces and several top political figures, *DIE WELT* said. Mirhashem's task was to organise a terror war, with the aim of "liberating all Islamic countries from their corrupt leaders," the report said.

Among those targeted were the Gulf Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, while Jordan and France were also selected for attack.

The meeting decided to recruit up to 2,000 suicide commandos, teamed in units of 10 or 20 men, with their base in Lebanon, *DIE WELT* said, adding that the figure was far from being fulfilled.

Ayatollah Denies Report in London OBSERVER

LD251443 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Qom, March 25, IRNA — Office of Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Golpaygani, in a statement issued here Monday, categorically denied a recent report by the London newspaper *OBSERVER*, alleging that the ayatollah was critical of the continuation of the Iraqi imposed war.

In a contact with the ayatollah's office, IRNA was told that he had never adopted such a stance and had always called for the final victory of the Iranian forces in the Iraqi imposed war. The office denied such unfounded claims by the paper and referred to it as a mere lie.

Afghan Government Forces Kill 84 Civilians

LD241946 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Birjand, Khorasan Pr. March 24 IRNA — Joint Soviet-Afghan Government forces attacked five vehicles carrying civilian Afghans including innocent women and children on March 16 and killed 84 of them.

The attacks were launched separately in Kuh Elmi and Cheshmeh Makak regions, in Shindad region and Herat Province. The victims were migrating due to repeated bombardments of their regions by the Afghan Government.

Afghan Rebels Explode Bomb in Kabul, 6 Killed

LD251854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] According to the report of the news agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran quoting the sources of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries, as a result of the explosion of a powerful bomb in the city of Kabul, six Soviet military men were killed or injured. The explosion of this bomb, which occurred towards the end of last week, in the Makrurian area of Kabul, also inflicted extensive material losses.

According to this report, the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries, also in a big operation, targeted the command headquarters of the 15th Armored Division of the Karmal regime situated in the Pol-Charkhi area of Kabul, from a mountain overlooking this headquarters, with heavy and semi-heavy weaponry fire, and

inflicted extensive losses in material and manpower on this important military headquarters and the people in it.

The command headquarters of the 15th Armored Division of Pol-Charkhi in Kabul is one of the most important and elaborate in the military structure of Karmal's regime. This report adds that the joint Soviet and Afghan Government forces, in retaliation for recent operations of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries against these forces, carried out aircraft and helicopter bombings of the residential areas of the city of Herat, as a result of which 80 civilian inhabitants of this city were martyred.

Briefs

Ambassadorial Appointment Approved — Tehran, March 25, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i approved appointment of Mustafa Ha'eri-Fumani, as the new Iranian ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, it was announced here Monday. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati had proposed Ha'eri-Fumani for the post. [Text][*Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 25 Mar 85 LD*]